GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1868
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
IMPORT OF PALM OIL
KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY;T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed import of Palm Oil from Malaysia and Indonesia atvery low import duty resulting in the record price fall of coconut oil in the recent past in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have initiated steps to safeguard the interest of the domestic farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (S SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) : No, Sir. On the contrary the duty structure has been revised upward effective from 1.3.2001.

(b): Does not arise.

(c)&(d) : Some of the steps taken to safeguard the interest of the domestic farmers are :-

(i) Use of indigenous oils in the manufacture of vanaspati to at least 25% of the production on a monthly basis has been made mandatory. Also, higher use of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati up to 30% has also been allowed. The objective is to incentivise the farmers in terms of better returns for their produce.

(ii) In order to harmonise the interests of domestic oilseeds growers, consumers and processors and to regulate large import of edible oils to the extent possible, the duty structure on edible oils has been revised upward effective from 1.3.2001.